(d) if so, the points dicussed and decisions taken thereat; and

(e) the steps taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) (a) to (e) The State Housing Ministers, Conference held on 29-30 November, 2004 *inter alia* recommended review of the existing National Housing & Habitat Policy, 1998 so as to accelerate supply of serviced land and housing with particular focus of EWS and LIG categories. The main issues discussed include National Housing & Habitat Policy, Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana, National Slum Development Programme, Swam Jayanti Shahri Rojgar Yojana, property tax reforms, Fiscal incentives, Foreign Direct Investment to promote housing public-private partnership, housing finance facilities for the poor etc. A Task Force under Chairpersonship of Secretary (UERA) has been constituted to review the existing National Housing & Habitat Policy 1998.

**Low Cost Housing**

761. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose any scheme to provide low cost housing;

(b if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would take the State into confidence in implementing such a scheme; and

(d) if so, the time schedule for this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) (a) and (b) A Centrally sponsored scheme called Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) is being implemented w.e.f. 2.12.2001 in urban areas of all States/UTs. The Scheme has the primary objective to facilitate construction and upgradation of dwelling units for slum dwellers living below poverty line and to provide healthy and enabling urban environment through community toilets. 50% of the cost ceiling is released as Central subsidy. The balance is arranged by the concerned State Govts, either from their own budget provisions or by taking loan from HUDCO, contribution from beneficiaries etc. There is a provision of State Level coordination Committee.

(c) and (d) It is a demand driven scheme and propsals are received from

the State Governments.

**Comprehensive Cooperative Housing Scheme for Urban Poor**

762. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked a comprehensive cooperative housing scheme for the urban poor to replace the Jhuggi-jhopris with neatly planned permanent houses in multi-storied blocks for them; and

(b) if so, the estimated number of such shelters to be constructed in each State and the number of the urban poor to be housed therein; and other details of the Scheme, indicating phase-wise action plan therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Development of Slums in Dharavi, Mumbai**

763 SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced financial assistance of Rs. 500 crores for development of slums situated at Dharavi in Mumbai;

(b) if so, the financial assistances rendered by Government so far; and

(c) by when the whole amount meant for the purpose would be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA) (a) Yes, Sir. In January, 2004, the Prime Minister had announced Rs. 500 crore aid to Government of Maharashtra for development of Dharavi in Mumbai.

(b) and (c) The Government of Maharashtra had forwarded a project proposal in December, 2003 for construction of approximately 71,000 houses, along with infrastructure, for rehabilitation of slum dwellers in Dharavi, at an approximate cost of Rs. 5,000 crore. The same was examined in consultation with the Planning Commission, and some clarifications were sought from the State Government. No funds were released to the State Government against the said project. In the meantime, the Planning Commission has undertaken

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.